

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In the latest Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21-24, 27-30, 33-36, and 38 were rejected. Claims 4, 5, 11, 16, 20, 25, 26, 31, 32, and 37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

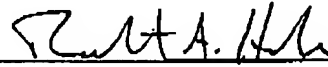
Applicant notes with appreciation the examiner's acknowledgement that the subject matter contained in claims 4, 5, 11, 16, 20, 25, 26, 31, 32, and 37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, with this amendment, each of the pending independent claims has been rewritten to include the limitations of one of these allowable claims. (E.g., claim 1 now corresponds to previous claim 4, claim 18 now corresponds to previous claim 20, claim 23 now corresponds to previous claim 26, claim 29 now corresponds to previous claim 32, and claim 35 now corresponds to previous claim 37.) Because the claims have been amended pursuant to the examiner's indication in the previous Office Action of allowable subject matter, the amended claims are in condition for allowance.

This amendment is made only to address the examiner's objection that certain claims would be allowable if not dependent upon a rejected base claim. As such, it does not raise new issues, nor does it introduce new subject matter not previously claimed. Applicant therefore submits that this after final amendment is proper, and the examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments presented herein. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b); MPEP § 714.12 ("Also, amendments complying with objections or requirements as to form are to be permitted after final action in accordance with 37 CFR 1.116(b).").

Based on the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes for any reason direct contact would help advance the prosecution of this case to allowance, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
REUEL W. NASH

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